

## City Council Meeting Minutes January 4, 2022

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Schuyler, Nebraska, met in regular session at the Schuyler Municipal Building on January 4, 2022 at 6:00 o'clock PM in a publicly convened session, the same being open to the public and having been preceded by posting a copy of the notice in three public places in the city, as evidenced by Attachment A hereto, said form of notice being the designated method for giving notice. The Mayor and City Council received advance notice of the meeting. A copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of such notice is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Mayor Knutson convened the meeting and Clerk Lora Johnson recorded the proceedings. The following council members were present: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment and Kretz. Absent: Rodriguez.

Mayor Knutson honored Police Officer Ryan Andel and Citizen Marvin Barrios for their bravery in helping everyone get out of a house fire on December 12<sup>th</sup> before the fire department was able to arrive.

Administrator DeRoos reported that the new Parks and Street Manager KJ Colvin started on Monday. He asked to have a discussion on the projects being discussed mainly pool and police station projects. He was wanting to get the Council's opinion on how to pursue the projects to be able to have something on the next meetings agenda for them to vote for. Option one is to have the pool and police station put out to the vote of the people on a general obligation bond. Option two is to put the pool by itself or option three just put the police station out by itself. Council member Kasik asked if the Police station by itself would be voted on by the people. DeRoos answered they could do just a public safety bond which would only require the council to pass an ordinance. The mayor stated that if the council went after an extra half cent sales tax it would create enough revenue to go after a four-million-dollar bond for the pool, police and a restroom/concession stand for the softball field and would need to pursue an interlocal with another governmental unit. Council member Holmberg stated the Police Station is his priority and the pool did not have support from the public so it can wait. Council member Kment also supports the Police Station. Council member Baumert feels they should work on one project at this time and see it to completion before tackling another. Council member Kretz feels the pool can wait 5 to 6 years. Council member Kasik feels the pool is important since we don't know how long it will last.

Administrator DeRoos stated there was some confusion on the Covid Incentive Package, the A and B were not options, the A was for fully vaccinated and B was for the booster shot. Council member Kasik asked would the employee be eligible for incentive for each booster shot received. DeRoos stated they would.

Administrator DeRoos reported for the ballroom, she has 53 rentals for the 52 weeks next year including the time we are closed for the floor replacement.

Clerk Johnson has been working with the auditor and it should be ready for the next meeting or the first meeting in February for the council's approval.

Emergency Manager Evert reported the FDA gave emergency approval for the new antiviral drugs to combat mild covid symptoms. Tooley's in Columbus has the drugs on hand. She also reminds if you don't feel good stay home. We will also be experiencing another cold snap.

Utility Superintendent McGowen thanked Emergency Manager Evert for the updates on the weather for this last weekend.

Police Chief Farber reported the new Dodge Durango is completely outfitted and in service. He will have some statistics for the Council next month.

Building Inspector Glodowski reported that the owner of the house that had the house fire Antonio Cabanas was in to find out what repairs he could do. The house will need to be torn down since it is damaged more than 50% of the value of the home since it is in the Floodplain. The lot could be sold as a commercial lot since it is zoned Commercial Business District. The home owner did not have any insurance on the home.

Administrator DeRoos shared the Economic Development Coordinators report she has sent the information for the \$1,000 Digital Marketing Grant for approval. She continues to work with News Channel Nebraska for stories about

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Schuyler, if you know of a good story please contact her. She continues to work on the America Pathway Project, working the sourcing of bricks and getting the correct stone for the sign. They have submitted information on the community development assistance act in the amount of \$15,000 in tax credits. She is working on a certified community application of downtown improvements. She asks you to follow the Schuyler Community Development on Facebook.

Council member Baumert moved to approve the December 21, 2021 council meeting minutes and dispense with its reading. Council member Holmberg seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment and Kretz. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Holmberg moved to approve payment of claims for the period from December 18, 2021 through December 30, 2021, in the amount of \$132,822.66 and the following exceeding \$1,000: Thiele Geotech, Inc., Material Testing, Streets, \$1,672.00; Schuyler Coop, Fuel, Parks/Streets/Police, \$1,863.40. All claims under \$1,000 listed on (Attachment 1). Council member Baumert seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment and Kretz. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Kretz moved to approve Digital Marketing Grant of \$1,000 to Goldmine Antiques and expend funds from LB840. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment and Kretz. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Kretz moved to approve the Covid Vaccination Incentive Pay Policy with the amendment to the policy of a one-time payment of a \$1,000 for fully vaccinated Full-time City Employees and Part-Time Library Employees. Council member Holmberg seconded the motion.

Council member Kasik stated she has not heard of other businesses providing money to go receive their shot. She had asked Administrator DeRoos to provide what other uses this money could be used for in the city. She feels that a lot to give \$500 every time they receive a shot. Council member Kretz understands this is an incentive to receive the shot he asked if employees who have already gotten the shot to receive this also. Administrator DeRoos stated it is for anyone who has received their shots previously and anyone who gets a shot up to the end of the policy at the end of the year or until the Council would resend it. Council member Kretz asked if he had numbers on how much this will cost? He said with 108 employees it would be \$108,000. Administrator DeRoos stated it would cover 28 at the city and 18 at the utilities. Council member Kment asked why the bartenders at the ballroom were being excluded, they have the most contact with the public. He also asked where all this money will come from to pay for this. Administrator DeRoos explained it will come from the American Rescue Plan in which we received \$577,000, there are several other ways to use the money. He said it could be used for new HVAC systems, emergency response to counteract the spread of the disease, that could be a new communication tower for the police, new broadcast system for the city, update the website, putting in emergency response system to contact people directly, a mailing program, premium pay for employees working, broadband, water and sewer. Mayor Knutson stated it could be amended to reflect what the council feels is appropriate. Council member Kasik asked if this includes time off for persons who contract covid. Clerk Johnson stated it does not. Mayor Knutson said this is saying we want people immunized because it prevents a more serious infection. Council member Holmberg stated a lot of the city and utility employees worked through the pandemic and didn't stay home, he thought this is a way to give a bonus or premium pay, along with an incentive to get vaccinated for less time off work. Council member Holmberg suggested to amend the motion to be fully vaccinated and one booster you will receive \$1,000 for fulltime employees and part-time library employee. Council member Kretz agreed to the amend the motion along with Council member Holmberg.

Voting for: Holmberg. Voting against: Baumert, Kasik, Kment and Kretz. Motion failed.

Council member Kasik moved to adjourn. Council member Kment seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment and Kretz. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

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ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Jon Knutson

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

STATE OF NEBRASKA)  
COUNTY OF COLFAX) SS  
CITY OF SCHUYLER)

I, Lora Johnson, City Clerk for the City of Schuyler, Nebraska, hereby certify that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for said meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that the minutes of the City Council of Schuyler, Nebraska, from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted, were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next council meeting.

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City Clerk Lora Johnson